

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5101
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
BAN ON IMPORT OF MARBLE
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a ban on import of marble in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of marble in tonnes for which approval of import was given during the last three years and the basis on which this approval was given;
- (d) the number of firms which have applied for licences to import marble and when these licences were sought; and
- (e) the Government's decision thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) : Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) : With effect from 1.4.2001, imports of crude or roughly trimmed Marble falling under EXIM Code No. 25151100, 25151200 & 25152002 indicated in ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, April 1997-2002 (as amended upto 31.3.2001) have been placed under Restricted List i.e. import can be allowed only against a licence to be issued by DGFT. A policy circular no. 29 dated 14.3.2002 framing the guidelines in this regard has been issued. With effect from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2001, these items were under SIL list and could be imported against surrender of SIL to the Customs Authorities and no specific licence was needed from DGFT. However, these were allowed with a value cap of US\$ 300 per MT and above for Rough Marble Blocks and US\$ 450 and above for Slabs. Other items i.e. finished marble etc., covered under Chapter 68 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items are freely importable under the current EXIM Policy.

During the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002, only 3 licences for a total quantity of 15,807.40 MTs for places of worship and Five Star Hotels have been issued. In addition to this 41 applications from traders/manufacturers and 3 applications from places of worship/5-Star Hotels have been received after 1.4.2001 which are being processed in accordance with the policy circular No.29 dated March 14, 2002.